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Congress of the United States
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HEALTH
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

We write today to strongly urge you to create a system to prioritize and expedite the coronavirus tests results for our law enforcement and first responders who are on the frontline of this crisis. New York City first responders and law enforcement personnel have had to wait several days for their coronavirus test results to come back. We hope you agree that this delay is unacceptable and that we must do better.

These men and women wake up every morning, put on their uniform and go to work - they do not have the option to work from home. Nor do they have jobs where they can remain secluded away from other people. As they are required to interact with the public and with each other, their health is critical to our city functioning.

As we all work to dramatically expand capacity for more and faster testing, we understand that patients whose symptoms are severe enough to require hospitalization and healthcare workers with serious symptoms are being prioritized for testing. We simply ask that first responders be the next group prioritized so that our first responders can continue to do their work and keep our city safe. We appreciate your prompt attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Max Rose
Member of Congress

James LeMonda, United Firefighters Officers Association
Gerard Fitzgerald, United Firefighters Association
Paul DiGiacomo, Detectives Endowment Association
Louis Turco, Lieutenants Benevolent Association
Edward Mullins, Sergeants Benevolent Association
Vincent Variale, Uniformed EMS Officers Union